



TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was 3.8 percent for April 2001, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This rate was seven-tenths of a percentage point above the March 2001 rate of 3.1 percent, and it was three-tenths of a percentage point above the April 2000 rate of 3.5 percent. There was an increase in the number of employed individuals, from 237,400 to 238,800, and an increase in the number of unemployed individuals, from 7,500 to 9,300. The net increase in the *Civilian Labor Force* was 3,200 from March 2001 to April 2001. Treasure Valley Table 2 shows the April 2001 labor force figures for all counties in Southwest Idaho.

**Treasure Valley Table 2: April 2001
Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for
Southwest Idaho Counties**

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	181,073	6,020	3.3	175,053
Adams	1,600	212	13.3	1,388
Boise	2,535	125	4.9	2,409
Canyon	69,506	3,640	5.2	65,866
Elmore	9,294	562	6.0	8,732
Gem	6,475	393	6.1	6,082
Owyhee	4,104	196	4.8	3,908
Payette	10,235	680	6.6	9,555
Valley	4,281	310	7.2	3,971
Washington	4,658	361	7.7	4,298
Statewide	679,998	32,831	4.8	647,167

The number of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* grew by 1,900 between March and April 2001, and grew by 8,400 from April 2000. *Goods-Producing Industries* gained 100 jobs over the month. Job gains in *Construction & Mining* (500 jobs) outpaced job losses in *Manufacturing* (400 jobs), with job losses noted in *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment* (600 jobs), *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components* (200 jobs), *Other Lumber & Wood Products* (100 jobs), and *Food &*

**Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment
(Ada and Canyon counties)**

	Apr 2001*	Mar 2001	Apr 2000	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	248,100	244,900	233,100	1.3	6.4
Unemployment	9,300	7,500	8,100	24.0	14.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8%	3.1%	3.5%		
Total Employment	238,800	237,400	225,000	0.6	6.1
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	246,200	243,800	231,300	1.0	6.4
Unemployment	9,000	8,200	7,800	9.8	15.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.7%	3.4%	3.4%		
Total Employment	237,200	235,600	223,500	0.7	6.1
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	229,900	228,000	221,500	0.8	3.8
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	53,000	52,900	52,600	0.2	0.8
Mining & Construction	16,100	15,600	15,700	3.2	2.5
Manufacturing	36,900	37,300	36,900	-1.1	0.0
Durable Goods	28,600	28,900	28,500	-1.0	0.4
Lumber & Wood Products	3,200	3,200	3,500	0.0	-8.6
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	800	700	1,000	14.3	-20.0
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,400	2,500	2,500	-4.0	-4.0
Fabricated Metal Products	1,200	1,200	1,200	0.0	0.0
Ind. & Comm. Mach. & Computer Equip.	7,500	8,100	8,000	-7.4	-6.3
Electronic & Other Elect. Equip. & Comp.	13,000	12,800	11,700	1.6	11.1
Transportation Equipment	1,700	1,700	2,100	0.0	-19.0
Other Durable Goods	2,000	1,900	2,000	5.3	0.0
Nondurable Goods	8,300	8,400	8,400	-1.2	-1.2
Food Products	5,400	5,500	5,600	-1.8	-3.6
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	1,600	1,700	1,800	-5.9	-11.1
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	2,000	2,000	1,900	0.0	5.3
Other Nondurable Goods	900	900	900	0.0	0.0
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	176,900	175,100	168,900	1.0	4.7
Trans, Comm, & Public Util	12,000	12,000	11,700	0.0	2.6
Transportation	6,700	6,800	6,400	-1.5	4.7
Comm & Elec, Gas & Sanitary Services	5,300	5,200	5,300	1.9	0.0
Trade	57,700	57,000	54,300	1.2	6.3
Wholesale Trade	14,000	14,000	13,300	0.0	5.3
Durable Goods	8,500	8,600	8,000	-1.2	6.3
Nondurable Goods	5,500	5,400	5,300	1.9	3.8
Retail Trade	43,700	43,000	41,000	1.6	6.6
General Merchandise Stores	6,100	6,000	4,300	1.7	41.9
Foods Stores	7,800	7,700	7,600	1.3	2.6
Eating & Drinking Places	15,000	14,700	14,800	2.0	1.4
Other Retail Trade	14,800	14,600	14,300	1.4	3.5
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	11,100	11,000	11,200	0.9	-0.9
Services	60,800	60,000	57,800	1.3	5.2
Business Services	14,700	14,800	14,800	-0.7	-0.7
Health Services	17,600	17,100	16,300	2.9	8.0
Hospitals	8,200	7,900	7,300	3.8	12.3
Eng., Acct., Res., Mngmt., & Related	4,800	4,800	4,300	0.0	11.6
Other Services	23,700	23,300	22,400	1.7	5.8
Government	35,300	35,100	33,900	0.6	4.1
Federal Government	5,200	5,000	5,100	4.0	2.0
State Government	13,100	13,200	12,700	-0.8	3.1
Education	4,600	4,700	4,400	-2.1	4.5
Administration	8,500	8,500	8,300	0.0	2.4
Local Government	17,000	16,900	16,100	0.6	5.6
Education	11,300	11,300	10,700	0.0	5.6
Administration	5,700	5,600	5,400	1.8	5.6

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Kindred Products (100 jobs). Job gains in *Manufacturing* included *Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes* (100 jobs) and *Other Durable Goods* (100 jobs). Year-over-year, the only industries that did not experience an increase in the number of jobs were *Wood Buildings & Mobile Home Manufacturing*, *Other Lumber & Wood Products Manufacturing*, and *Food & Kindred Products Manufacturing*; all other *Goods-Producing Industries* experienced a year-over-year gain. The increase in *Goods-Producing Industries* accounted for 5.3 percent of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* added over the month, and 4.8 percent of the jobs created year-over-year.

Service-Producing Industries added 1,800 jobs in the Boise City MSA from March 2001 to April 2001. The only industries that accrued a loss over the month were *Transportation* (100 jobs), *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* (100 jobs), *Business Services* (100 jobs), and *State Government Education* (100 jobs); all other *Service-Producing Industries* gained jobs over the month. The industries that posted the most job gains over the month were *Eating & Drinking Places* (300 jobs), *Health Services* (500 jobs), and *Other Services* (400 jobs). Year-over-year, the only industries that did not experience a gain in *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* in April were *Business Services*, with a loss of 100 jobs, and *Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate*, with a loss of 100 jobs. The increase in *Service-Producing Industries* accounted for 94.4 percent of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* added over the month, and 95.2 percent of jobs created year-over-year.

SPECIAL TOPICS:

High-Tech Industry Watch

Recent layoffs at Micronpc.com and MCMS are forcing people in the Treasure Valley to look at the high-tech industry and question its future throughout the valley. With the recent layoffs included, the number of jobs lost in high-tech companies since January has increased to 1,500, not including temporary workers. In related news, Gores Technology Group, which recently purchased Micronpc.com, also announced the purchase of VeriFone of Hewlett Packard; this acquisition will allow HP to focus on its core competencies.

Boise Cascade

Boise Cascade, which announced in February the permanent closure of its sawmill in Cascade and its plywood and lumber operations in Emmett, has laid off the majority of its workers at those facilities. May 31st was the last day of work at the Cascade sawmill and at the plywood plant in Emmett. Over 200 workers were affected by this layoff, and more employees will be laid off from the lumber facility in Emmett during June.

Unemployment Insurance

Because of the large number of layoffs that have occurred over the past few months, it is important to reestablish the importance of the Unemployment Insurance program, which is specifically designed to assist indi-

viduals in these types of situations. The Unemployment Insurance Program has two functions:

(1) *Stabilizing the Economy*: Besides helping unemployed individuals and families transition from one job to another, Unemployment Insurance (UI) acts as an automatic economic stabilizer. In a recession, UI benefits offset some of the effects of job losses on a community's spending power. Because UI benefits allow unemployed individuals and their families to continue to pay their bills, it helps maintain incomes and spending power of the stores, landlords, banks, and service providers in the community. UI softens the blow and reduces the snowball effect of job losses.

(2) *Retaining a Local Workforce*: Unemployment Insurance promotes stability by making it possible for employers to retain workers during the off-season or during a short downturn. Many seasonal industries would find it much more difficult to attract and retain employees if their workers could not rely on UI to support them through the off-season.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Boise City MSA

- For the second consecutive year, the Boise City MSA was ranked in Forbes Magazine's list of the 10 best places to do business and advance a career in America. The metropolitan area ranked number 7 this year, compared with number 5 last year. The magazine looked at eight different business categories including wage and salary growth, job growth, quality of life, high-tech clustering, access to capital, a pro-business government orientation, strong work ethic, and universities. Metropolitan areas that scored above Boise included San Jose, Austin, San Francisco, Boulder, Dallas, and Santa Rosa, with San Diego, Phoenix, and Oakland rounding out the top ten.
- Washington Group International, Inc. (WGI) filed for Chapter 11 protection in mid-May. This marks the second bankruptcy filing for the company in five years. Company officials stated that bankruptcy protection was the only way the company could stay afloat and eventually regain profitability. The recent financial problems for WGI started after a disputed acquisition deal with Raytheon Co., and by seeking Chapter 11 protection, company officials hope to make a debt-to-equity swap to stay in business. A federal bankruptcy judge in Reno, Nevada, will approve or deny the bankruptcy action for WGI. If the plan is approved, WGI plans to continue all projects and company officials do not plan to lay any employees off. WGI employs 600 people in Boise.
- The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) has already begun working with rural Idaho fire depart-

ments on fire suppression training and preparing equipment, in anticipation of a busy fire season. NIFC expected to have over 110 firefighters in Boise by mid-June—30 more than in previous years. In addition to the NIFC hiring, the U.S. Forest Service is also adding personnel and equipment to battle upcoming wildfires. A dry winter in Idaho usually indicates a long fire season, although officials say that it is too early to tell and there are too many unknown factors involved to predict the severity of the fire season.

- Palm, Inc. and Extended Systems issued a joint statement in mid-May that terminated the acquisition of Extended Systems by Palm. Spokespersons from Extended Systems and Palm, Inc. cited worsening economic conditions as one of the reasons for the failed acquisition. On a related note, Extended Systems has licensed its Bluetooth software technology (designed for use in embedded devices such as cellular phones, PDAs, digital cameras, portable office equipment, and industrial automation products) to NEC, for implementation in a Bluetooth printer adapter that has just been released in Japan. NEC selected Extended Systems' technology because of its portability and reliability. To date, Extended Systems has licensed its Bluetooth software to more than 85 leading companies.
- Several new restaurants opened in downtown Boise recently including Schott's Steaks and Chops, Bar-Time, and M's Wine/Martini Bar opened at 10th and Main streets, the Manhattan Grill opened at 622 Idaho Street, Banja Luka opened at 1517 W. Main Street (formerly Bacchus Café), Conundrum opened in March at 1002 W. Main Street (formerly Ten-O-Two), Zutto Sushi Bar moved to 615 W. Main Street in April, The Dublin Up Irish Pub opened at 800 W. Idaho Street on the second floor of the Mode building (formerly Noodle's), and Bittercreek Alehouse at 246 N. 8th Street received a facelift and a new full-bar menu in May. Coming this summer are Ha' Penny Bridge and Happy Fish Sushi and Martini Bar located next to The Big Easy, Addie's Place will replace Teriyaki Palace at 501 Main Street, and Goldy's Breakfast Bistro will open a second store this fall in Hyde Park in conjunction with Richard's Bakery at 1513 N. 13th Street.
- The Desert Sage Restaurant has announced plans to build a new facility near the intersection of Park-Center Boulevard and Beacon Street in Boise, which will be completed in two years.
- The Collister Center owners have announced a renovation of the northwest shopping center. The \$2.5 million facelift will include replacing the old shingling with a dark red-and-white trim metal fa-

cade. If approved, the remodeling will begin in June. The owners are still working towards attracting new tenants to the shopping center, and hope that the remodeling will attract new tenants and new customers.

- Over the past few months the following economic developments have been announced for the city of Boise: work on the long-anticipated Boise Tower will begin on June 18 and should be completed by early 2003; D.L. Evans will start construction on a second branch in Boise on the northwest corner of Emerald Street and Cole Road; RadioShack announced plans to move its store and district office from Orchard Street to Pioneer Square on Overland Road; Michael Fisher plans to close its jewelry store on the ground-floor of the Hoff building at Eighth and Bannock streets in July; and Jack-in-the-Box has filed plans with the City of Boise to build a restaurant on the northwest corner of Capitol Boulevard and Ann Morrison Park Drive.
- MacKenzie River Pizza's parent company, MacKenzie River International, Inc., has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. The company operates three pizza restaurants in the Boise area and 10 in Montana. The company plans to keep all stores open and still open a new store currently under construction in the Crossroads Shopping Center in Meridian.
- Over the past month in Meridian, the following businesses opened: Meridian Cycle & Accessories and Edward Jones at 3325 W. Cherry Lane; Starmedia Promotions announced the expansion of its business at 320 E. Corporate Drive, Suite 310 that will include an advertising department along with its design, apparel, signs, and promotional items businesses; and Fred Meyer received approval from the Meridian City Council to build a Fred Meyer gasoline facility on the northeast corner of Fairview Avenue and Locust Grove Road in Meridian, which will include a 3,612-square-foot canopy over five multi-product dispensers and a cashier's kiosk.
- The Firehouse Diner opened in Kuna in March in the old Kuna Rural Fire District building at 271 Avenue B.
- Environmental Oil of Nampa recently acquired Artesian Oil Recovery, Inc., a California oil recovery firm. The \$485,000 acquisition was finalized on May 14. Artesian oil is a used oil transfer facility that collects used oil, oily water, antifreeze, and other related materials for recycling. The acquisition fits with Environmental Oil's long-range plans.
- Recent business openings in Canyon County over the past month included: Zamzow's, which opened

a second location in Nampa at 1201 Franklin Boulevard; Sam Goody (formerly Musicland) opened its new location in Karcher Mall next to Bath & Body Works; Family Mortgage of Idaho opened at 714 Cleveland Boulevard in Caldwell; DJ Wholesale Framers Supply, Inc. leased 16,000 square feet of warehouse space at 2504 Sundance Road in Nampa; Idaho Camera leased 1,500 square feet of retail space in the Greenhurst Retail Center at 2312 12th Avenue Road in Nampa; construction began on the new Canyon County Animal Shelter in Caldwell behind the Larry Miller AutoMall and is expected to open in October; and Golden Corral announced a new restaurant on Karcher Road near Red Robin in Nampa.

- In late April, construction began on the first phase of West Valley Centre, a 40,000-square-foot shopping center located west of Middleton Road on the Nampa-Caldwell Boulevard. The first phase (20,000 square feet) will be completed by April 2002, and Sears will occupy 10,000 square feet of that space. The new shopping center will be the first major retail location to serve the Nampa and Caldwell communities.
- Hertz Car Sales opened a new location in early May at 4320 E. Cleveland Boulevard in Caldwell. This is the second location for Hertz Car Sales in the Treasure Valley, and it will employ about 30 individuals. The grand opening will be held in June.
- Construction of a new \$4.7 million elementary school in the Vallivue School District will begin in early August and will be completed next year. Birch Elementary School will be located at the intersection of Birch Lane and 11th Avenue Extension.
- The Armadillo Bar-B-Q and Steakhouse opened a new branch in Middleton in mid-April. The newly remodeled restaurant is located at 307 E. First Street North.

Adams County

- The New Meadows United Methodist Church is host to a food bank that will open late this summer. Seven local businesses helped collect anonymous cash donations to pay for the food, which was collected during March and April. Many other contributions were made. The food bank will open in August or September and will be affiliated with the Idaho Foodbank Warehouse, Inc.

Elmore County

- The \$35 million expansion of the Saylor Creek training range at Mountain Home Air Force Base should be completed by the end of 2001. The project started in the early 1980s but final agreement was not reached until two years ago. The first phase, which

included setting up some of the 30 emitter sites (pads for parking trucks equipped to emit signals that simulate enemy radar), was completed earlier this year. The second phase of the project, which involves the construction of a dummy factory, is expected to be completed before July.

Gem County

- This year's community auction raised nearly \$11,000 for local youth groups in early May. Recipients of the auction funds included Gem Youth Service, Emmett Community Playhouse, Gem/Boise 4-H Leaders Association, Gem County Girl Scouts, Friends of the Library, Optimist Baseball, Emmett High School Dance Team, Boy Scouts, Emmett Soccer, and the Rotary Club.

Payette County

- Recent developments in Payette County include the continuing construction of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank in Fruitland, the opening of The Hot Spot restaurant at 318 S. Main Street in Payette, and the Barber and Style shop opened at 21 S. Main Street in Payette.

Valley County

- The McCall Ice Rink and Event Center received a \$400,000 grant from the State of Idaho to build a 50-space parking garage. The grant was awarded by Governor Dirk Kempthorne as part of the latest round of public facility grants federally funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- The Valley County Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously approved a scaled-back development application for the proposed WestRock Lake Cascade four-season resort near Donnelley. The State Land Board and Valley County Commissioners still need to approve the proposal before any development can occur.

Washington County

- Dr. Paul Smith and his wife Mary Ann, a registered nurse, opened a surgical practice in Weiser, located at Memorial Hospital's Medical Specialty Clinic, in early May.

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